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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

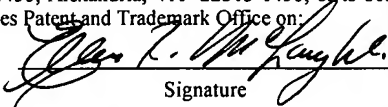
Applicant: George E. Barringer, Jr., Stephen C. Phillips and Mark J. Phillips

Application No.: 10/600,177 Group: 2122

Filed June 20, 2003 Examiner Not assigned

Confirmation No.: 9752

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPERATING AN AUTOMATED  
BIOMOLECULAR PREPARATION SYSTEM

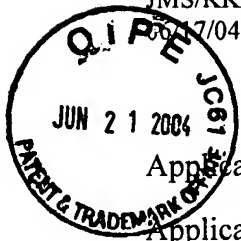
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on:	
June 17, 2004	
Date	Signature
Ellen R. McLaughlin	
Typed or printed name of person signing certificate	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:



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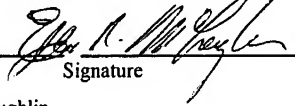
Applicant: George E. Barringer, Jr., Stephen C. Phillips and Mark J. Phillips

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Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Preliminary Amendment for filing in the above-identified application.

[X] Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a Small Entity Statement previously submitted.

[ ] A Small Entity Statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

(COL. 1)	(COL. 2)	(COL. 3)	(COL. 4)	(COL. 5)
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA
TOTAL	66	MINUS	* 66	0
INDEP	7	MINUS	** 7	0
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM				

\* not fewer than 20

\*\* not fewer than 3

SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	ADDIT. FEE
X \$9	\$ 0
X \$43	\$ 0
+ \$145	\$

TOTAL = \$ 0

OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	ADDIT. FEE
X \$18	\$
X \$86	\$
+ \$290	\$

TOTAL = \$ 0

Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0380 for the following fees:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Petition for [            ] month Extension of Time	\$	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment Fee	\$	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Fees:		
	_____	\$	_____
	_____	\$	_____
	TOTAL:	\$	<u>0</u>

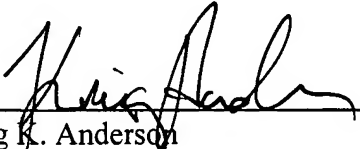
A check is enclosed in payment of the following fees:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Petition for [            ] month Extension of Time	\$	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment Fee	\$	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Fees:		
	_____	\$	_____
	_____	\$	_____
	TOTAL:	\$	<u>0</u>

☒ A general authorization is hereby granted to charge Deposit Account No. 08-0380 for any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 in order to maintain pendency of this application. A copy of this authorization is enclosed for accounting purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
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Dated: June 17, 2004